

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 280630Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, BEXP, EAID, TC, YE

SUBJECT: ABU DHABI FINANCING YEMEN DAM PROJECT

REF: A) ABU DHABI 1067, B) ABU DHABI 1131

1. FOR TEHRAN - PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
WAITER LEBER OF TEHRAN OFFICE OF HARZA ENGINEERING COMPANY--
A) BEGIN MESSAGE: AMEMBASSY SANA RECENTLY INFORMED BY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI THAT HARZA ENGINEERING INTERESTED IN
BIDDING ON FEASIBILITY AND DETAILED DESIGN STUDIES FOR
PROPOSED DAM
PROJECT BEING FINANCED BY ABU DHABI.

B) AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THIS IS PERSONAL PROJECT FINANCED
BY SHAYKH ZAYD DIRECTLY AS OPPOSED TO ABU DHABI FUND. DAM
WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN AREA OF ANCIENT CITY OF MARIB, UP THE
WADI RUINS OF SHEBA'S FAMOUS DAM.

C) LOCALE IS IN EXTREMELY ISOLATED AREA REACHED FROM SANA
BY ROUGH MOUNTAINOUS TRACK. MODERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN AREA LIMITED TO FEW DIESEL PUMPS, SOME LOCALLY-GENERATED
ELECTRICITY, ONE SCHOOL, AND ONE CLINIC. ABU DHABI WILL
FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF PAVED ROAD BETWEEN SANA AND MARIB
BUT PROJECT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL 1979 OR 1980.

D) WADI WHERE DAM WILL BE CONSTRUCTED HAS RUNNING WATER
GENERALLY DURING RAINY SEASON ONLY (JULY TO SEPTEMBER),
ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GROUND WATER. NO COMPLETE
MINERAL SURVEY EVER TAKEN OF AREA, ALTHOUGH REGION

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COVERED BY AID/USGS "LANDSAT" PROGRAM. SOMEONE IN

YOUR HOME OFFICE MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO DISCUSS THIS PROGRAM
WITH USGS HEADQUARTERS IN RESTON, VIRGINIA, (TRY JAMES JONES)
OR WITH USGS HYDROLOGIST G. CHASE TIBBITTS ATTACHED
TO AID/YEMEN HERE IN SANA.

E) FEW DETAILS OF MARIB DAM PROJECT AVAILABLE IN SANA
AS IDEA LARGELY HATCHED AND NURTURED BY SHAYKH ZAYD
X HOWEVER,

IT IS ESSENTIAL ENGINEER VISIT AREA FOR QUICK SURVEY. BEST
YEMEN GOVERNMENT AGENCY IN POSITION TO DISCUSS ANY KNOWN DETAILS
IS CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION. EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO
ASSIST WITH APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS.

F) AIR SERVICE TO MARIB AVAILABLE TWO-THREE TIMES WEEKLY ON
CHANGING SCHEDULE. ADEQUATE REST HOUSE LOCATED IN MARIB
AND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE WITH DRIVER CAN BE ARRANGED
THERE, THOUGH EXPENSIVE.

G) FOREIGN FIRMS HAVE ONLY RECENTLY BEEN ENGAGED IN FOREIGN
AID ACTIVITIES IN YEMEN, AND NO LOCAL AGENTS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED.
AT SAME TIME, THESE COMPANIES HAVE ALWAYS HAD STRONG TIE-IN
WITH APPROPRIATE YARG MINISTRIES.

H) PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF YOUR PLANS AND WE WILL ASSIST
WHERE WE CAN. END MESSAGE.

2) FOR ABU DHABI: NOTE OF THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS
MATTER. UAE INCREASINGLY ONE OF MAJOR AID DONORS IN YEMEN, AND
WE'RE ALWAYS GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE ANY INFO REACHING YOU CONCERNING
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR YAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS POSTED
FROM THE EMIRATES.
SCOTES

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